



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

the Polar regions, to ensnare and get within their grasp the bear, the reindeer, the walrus, and the seal. A more interesting work of the nature we have alluded to, or one more calculated at once to amuse and instruct, we have never yet seen than the one now before us. It is one peculiarly well fitted for a family library, being written in that plain, easy, unaffected style, which is of all others the best fitted for the capacities of youth, as well as for engaging and fixing their attention. The design of the work, we are told, is to exhibit a connected view of the successive voyages made to the arctic regions. In performing this, however, the writers have gone into a most interesting examination of the climate and its phenomena—given a general survey of all that is known of its geological structure, and at the same time afforded some interesting particulars relative to its natural history. The following brief extract, descriptive of the aurora borealis, will afford our readers a very fair idea of the interesting manner in which this volume has been compiled.

"The northern world, when the sun departs, is by no means involved in that deep, monotonous gloom which such a privation might indicate. After that luminary has finally quitted the earth, and the long northern winter has closed in, the heavens become a gay scene, through which the most brilliant meteors are perpetually playing. Those singular and beautiful streams of light, called commonly the *Aurora Borealis*, or Northern Morning, keep up an almost incessant illumination. They were discerned in full splendour by Captains Parry and Lyon during their Arctic residence. The light had a tendency to form an irregular arch, which, in calm weather, was often very distinct, though its upper boundary was seldom well defined; but, whenever the air became agitated, showers of rays spread in every direction, with the brilliancy and rapidity of lightning. Sometimes long bands of light were spread out with inconceivable rapidity, but always appearing to move to and from a fixed point, somewhat like a ribbon held in the hand and shaken with an undulatory motion.... They gave an indescribable air of magic to the whole scene, and made it not wonderful, that by the untaught Indian they should be viewed as 'the spirits of his fathers roaming through the land of souls.'.... It has been a question whether this meteor hid the stars; it was generally decided that it dimmed the lustre of those heavenly bodies, as if a thin gauze veil had been drawn over them,—an effect which was augmented when several luminous portions were spread over each other. In a clear atmosphere these lights shone with a bright-

ness which gave the impression that they were nearer than the clouds; but whenever these last overspread the sky, the *Aurora* was hid by them, and must therefore have been more distant.

"Other luminous meteors, arising apparently from the refraction caused by the minute and highly-crystallized spicules of ice, appear in succession to embellish the northern sky. The sun and moon are often surrounded with haloes,—concentric circles of vapour, tinted with the brightest hues of the rainbow. Parhelia, or mock suns, frequently adorned with these accompaniments, shine at once in different parts of the sky. Ellis, who was with Moore and Smith to Hudson's Bay, has seen six in one sky. They are most brilliant at daybreak, diminish in lustre as the real sun ascends, but again brighten at his setting. The sun himself, for some time before he finally departs for the winter, and also after his reappearance in the spring, tinges the sky with hues of matchless brilliancy. The edges of the clouds near that luminary often present a fiery or burnished appearance, while the opposite horizon glows with a deep purple, gradually softening as it ascends into a delicate rose-colour of inconceivable beauty. As the solar orb at these periods never rises more than a few degrees above the horizon, he is, as it were, in a state of permanent rising and setting, and seems to exhibit longer and more variously the beautiful appearances arising out of that position."

*Gertrude and her Family.* By the Author of "A Visit to my Birth Place." "Early Recollections," "The Abbey of Innismoye." Dublin: Tims. Were we to judge of "the march of intellect" in Ireland, by the number of neat little works which, from month to month, issue from the press of the metropolis, we should be disposed to think rather favourably on the subject, as there can be no doubt, forming our judgment by this criterion, that the good people of this country are becoming much more fond of reading than they were but a few years since; and it is pleasing to observe, that to works in which amusement is blended with information, a decided preference is given. The little volume before us, is one of that description, in which an interesting and very natural story is made the medium of conveying particular religious opinions; and one chief object appears to be, to show the beneficial effects produced on the character by genuine religion. We are introduced to the heroine of the story, just as she is married, in her seventeenth year, to an opulent banker, whose tastes and dispositions are the very opposite of her own, but whose riches are supposed fully

to compensate for the disparity; and, disappointed in her expectations, like many others, she looks "beyond the domestic circle for happiness, seeking, in company, in crowds, in noise, dress, and external gaiety, for that which is 'our being's end and aim,' but which so few obtain, because they seek amiss." The loss of a beloved child, and other circumstances, conduce to lead her mind from the vanities and trifles of the world, in which she never had felt any real pleasure. In the course of time an event occurs, by which she is enabled to give an instance of the support furnished to the mind by true religion, under the most distressing vicissitudes of life. By repeated losses her husband is ruined—his bank is closed, and he is left almost penniless. This disclosure, and its effects on Gertrude, are among the happiest efforts throughout the volume. After experiencing the bitter pangs of poverty for some time, they are again raised to affluence by the death of a relative, who leaves them a considerable fortune. It must be evident, that from the present meagre outline, no adequate idea can be formed of the work. Several interesting characters are introduced, who, of course, each act their part in producing the desired result. As we observed, the story is made the medium of a very spirited controversy on the subject of Socinianism. Gertrude and her husband professed Unitarian sentiments, and the arguments employed by her brother (who appears in the character of a clergyman of the Established Church) to win her over, are certainly

of the most popular description—and by those interested in the controversy, they will be read with pleasure. It is a little work of very considerable merit, and has much less of that nauseous sentimentality than might have been expected in such a publication. With one exception, it is decidedly the best production of the Author; and the way in which it is brought out.

*An Inquiry into the Nature and Effects of Popery.* By John Ryan, Esq. Dublin: Curry & Co.

This is a work, not at all in our line—but having been published in Dublin, and we, having been much pressed by the Author to notice it—think it but fair to say, that it will be found a tolerably good compendium, (done something in the way of a scrap book) of the sentiments and opinions of various authors, whose writings propose to show, that the Roman Catholic religion is altogether incompatible with genuine freedom—that true constitutional liberty cannot exist where it is the religion of a country. The individual writing on such a subject as this, should be armed at all points, for offence and defence; and, we must say, that on casually looking into this little work, it appeared to us, as if several of the arguments used by the Author, could be turned with great effect against himself. But we have said this is not a subject suited to our pages—we shall leave it to the Christian Examiner to do justice to Mr. Ryan's book.

#### VARIETIES—LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC.

We find from a traveller of distinction lately returned from Paris, that the Directors of the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA REVIEW*, are employed in a sort of compendium of that great work, to be entitled, "A Decennial Table of the Encyclopædian Review, a General Repository of Subjects contained in the first forty volumes of the Review, from A. D. 1819 to 1828, inclusive." The Directors propose publishing a complete and regular table of the whole interesting matter contained in their Review during that time. Facts, opinions, inventions, discoveries, &c. &c. will be classed under the general indications of the countries and the sciences to which they belong; so that the least practised scholar may easily bring into comparison different nations with their state of literature, arts and sciences, finding exactly what belongs to each, and thus

accurately estimating their relative intellectual progress or decay. The Decennial Table will form two volumes octavo, containing about a thousand printed pages in columns, and is to be published by subscription.

*Amputation of the Leg*, &c.—At the last sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Velpeau, a surgeon, read a paper on the amputation of the leg in the articulation of the knee; in which he contends that it is more simple and rapid, and less painful and dangerous, than by the thigh. M. Velpeau states that he has performed several operations in this way with perfect success.

*Area of Europe*.—The surface of the different European states in geographic square miles is as follows: Russia 375,174, Austria 12,153½, France 10,086, Great Britain 5535, Prussia 5040, the Nether-